



Wenatchee

Sportsmen's Association

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January 13, 2014

Whiskey Dick Winter Closure comments

The Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association is opposed to the opening of the road in the southeast area of the closure area. Our reasons include the fact that opening this road will allow winter access to most of the elk wintering area clear from the Vantage highway to the West Bar. In a normal snow year this area is not easily accessible due to snow pack. If this road is opened then a much larger area of the elk winter range will be subject to human disturbance. There has already been elk killed on the Quincy highway this winter, and more use can push more elk across the river. Vehicle disturbance could also push more elk south and west into the Kittitas valley where they already cause many problems. The main reason we oppose this road opening is because according to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists the elk herd in the local area (Colockum, Quilomene and Whiskey Dick) go into the winter in minimal health to survive through to the spring with the quality of feed available on the winter range.

We do support maintaining the winter area closure that has been in force for several years as it helps the elk and deer survive through the winter. We would also support a larger winter closure area.

Dave Gimlin

President

Wenatchee sportsmen's Association